

Update Regarding Wyoming State HAVA Plan August 2004

The State of Wyoming has made considerable progress toward compliance with HAVA, Title III. Each aspect of the State Plan is addressed below:

- **Voting System Standards.** Wyoming has conducted a survey of voting equipment currently in use and has gathered considerable information from the County Clerks Association work group. In addition, county clerks from all counties which must replace equipment have gathered to discuss replacement issues. However, Wyoming has been waiting, and still awaits, the recommendation by the National Institute on Standards and Technology (NIST) and the guidelines from the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).
- **Provisional Voting.** Wyoming's statutes now provide for provisional voting. Both rules and a guidebook, *What's New for 2004? Election Administration Handbook*, will provide guidance in using provisional ballots as needed for the 2004 elections.
- **Voting Information.** A work group comprised of county clerks, the staff of Protection and Advocacy System Inc. and Secretary of State staff has designed a voting information poster which will be available for every polling place for the 2004 elections. In addition, Wyoming statutes provide for other dissemination of information to the public, including proclamations in newspapers of general circulation, posting of ballots for review, distribution of voter information and information pertaining to ballot issues.
- **Computerized, statewide voter registration list.** Wyoming has made considerable progress toward implementation of the statewide voter registration list. With the assistance of a voter registration work group, which consisted of county clerks, county elections officials, technology staff and Secretary of State staff, the state has chosen a vendor to implement, host and maintain the statewide voter registration list. A contract for the project has been signed. The company, Accenture e-Democracy, has staff in Wyoming and county site surveys and data conversion is underway. Expected completion date is late summer, early fall 2005, well before the 2006 deadline.
- **Payments.** Wyoming has received \$16.5 million in federal HAVA funds and was appropriated \$750,000 in state funds, which will be used as the state match for Title II funds. Title I, Title II and state matching funds will all be kept in separate accounts as required for accounting purposes.

- **Voter Education, Election Official Education and Training, and Poll Worker Training.** Wyoming has begun its training efforts. A statewide conference was held highlighting *What's New for 2004? Election Administration Handbook*. The conference was well attended and all counties were represented. In addition, Secretary of State staff and a number of county clerks have attended national meetings pertaining to HAVA issues including voting systems, voter registration, and accessibility. The *Wyoming Election Judges Handbook* produced and distributed by the Secretary of State's Office was rewritten to reflect the changes needed to properly implement HAVA. The Secretary of State's Office partnered with the Wyoming Press Association to offer a HAVA training session at the Wyoming Press Association's annual statewide meeting. Although much has been, and is being, done in regards to voter education, election official education and training, and poll worker training, much lies ahead after the selection and deployment of replacement voting equipment.
- **Performance Goals.** Thus far Wyoming has met its basic performance goals, including implementation of provisional voting which meets the requirements of HAVA and implementation of a state-based complaint procedure which also meets the requirements of HAVA. Beyond this, Wyoming was successful in passing a legislative bill which addressed most other HAVA issues except voting systems (2004, Senate File 0047, Enrolled Act 22).
- **Additional aspects of Wyoming's State Plan.** In addition to those issues required to be addressed in states' plans, Wyoming chose to address the issues of universal access and voting rights of military members and overseas citizens.

Wyoming applied for and was approved for \$100,00 Health and Human Services, Election Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (HHS-EAID) funds. Counties were involved in determining the use of such funds to improve polling place accessibility and to otherwise assist individuals with disabilities to fully participate in the election process. All of these HHS-EAID projects are complete. The State of Wyoming just recently applied for a second round of HHS - EAID funds has been approved for another allotment of \$100,000.

Wyoming continues to acknowledge the value of our members of the armed forces and overseas workers and continues to encourage them to exercise their right of citizenship by voting. Wyoming formed a military and overseas work group consisting of representatives of the county clerks, the military, and Secretary of State's Office. Pertinent statutes were amended, procedures to assist military voters were discussed at the statewide conference, and the Secretary of State's Office was designated as the one central point of initial contact for military and overseas voters.